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News in Brief

The CIA has been "castrated" in recent years and must be strengthened to cope with future threats like the seizure of American diplomats, former President Richard M. Nixon told the French newsmagazine Le Point. Asked about the Iranian crisis, Nixon said, "It's vital everyone clearly knows that each time there are terrorist acts, backed or not by a government, the United States considers itself in the right to act by any means of its choice." Nixon also predicted that the Soviet Union, having invaded Afghanistan, will not mount any further such operations this year.